

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11, 14, 15 and 17 were previously pending in the application. Claim 17 is canceled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11, 14, and 15.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 9-11, 14, 15 and 17. In reliance thereon, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 17.

Amended claim 1 which includes the subject matter of claim 17 is believed to render moot the rejection of claims 1 and 4 over SAITO et al. 5,796,574 in view of BENDALE et al. 6,631,074, the rejection of claim 2 over SAITO et al. in view of BENDALE et al. and ANDELMAN 6,127,474 and the rejection of claim 5 over SAITO et al. in view of BENDALE et al. and GAN et al. 6,171,729.

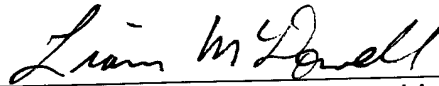
Since the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowable or depend from an allowable claim, and since there are no outstanding formal matters, the application is believed in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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